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## **Allred Receives Asheboro Pride Award**

Asheboro native Ricky Allred was presented the "Asheboro Pride Award" by City Council during their May 10 meeting, in recognition of his efforts to gather and share the history of the community. Allred is the second person to receive this award since its creation in 2010. The Asheboro Pride Award is intended to recognize and thank individuals who have completed a project or act that demonstrates outstanding pride in Asheboro and provides a service to the community. Allred was presented with a special "Asheboro Pride Award" plate and his name will appear on a plaque at City Hall that recognizes award winners.



Allred's work with local history began when he returned to Asheboro to work in 2003. The idea for the "Walk Thru the Past" tours at the Old Asheboro Cemetery began with a lunchtime stroll with a co-worker who shared his curiosity about old cemeteries. An unusual grave marker prompted an effort to find out something about the persons buried beneath it - Leonard and Mullie Preston. Conversations about the story led to an article in the local newspaper. Mr. Allred was then asked by a representative of the City's Community Appearance Committee to tell the Preston's story at their grave site. Response to this event was such that Mr. Allred began conducting monthly tours (generally from April to October) under the auspices of the Asheboro Department of Cultural and Recreational Services, a series that continues to the present time. In addition to the Walk Thru the Past tours, Mr. Allred also speaks to civic and historical interest groups in venues across North Carolina and presents lectures on local history topics at the Randolph County Public Library. His "Walk Thru the Past" series is now entering its fifth season.

While recognizing Allred, Mayor Smith commended him on the amount of time and research that went into the preparation for these tours. The cemetery tours regularly draw crowds of 80 or more participants, and a recent presentation at the old courthouse filled the room. Mr. Allred has also worked with the city on short videos about cemetery residents, which can be found through a link on the City's web site at [www.asheboronc.gov](http://www.asheboronc.gov).

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